

# Highway work starts on U.S. 36

By Karen Krien  
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Contractors are resurfacing two stretches of highway in Cheyenne County, U.S. 36 west of St. Francis and K-161 north of Bird City, with an in-place recycle of old pavement and a new surface.

Kristin Brands, district spokesman in Norton for the Kansas Department of Transportation, reported that both projects have pilot cars to lead people through one-lane sections past work crews. She said people should watch for flagmen and plan on a wait of up to 15 minutes.

The second part of construction on U.S. 36 will begin this week west of St. Francis. The crew will run a test strip on Wednesday, Brands said, and weather permitting, paving should begin on Thursday. Earlier in June, the contractor completed a heater scarification process on this stretch of road, heating up the old surface, adding a rejuvenating agent and rolling the surface.

The start of work could depend on getting the asphalt plant set up, Brands said. Paving itself should take six to seven days.

When the road is done, it will have 1-inch asphalt overlay from the Republican River bridge to the Colorado-Kansas state line, a 12-mile stretch. The estimated cost is just over \$1 million.

Construction on K-161 from U.S. 36 to the state line was expected to start Monday. Work on the 17-mile stretch will start with the heater scarification process, then the road will get a conventional chip seal.

"The process heats the existing pavement and rejuvenates it before it is re-compacted into the road-bed," said Michael Terry, Atwood construction engineer for the Transportation Department. "This is the first step in the process."

The sealing will be done by Heft and Sons of Greensburg, starting by Aug. 20. There will be a couple of weeks between the first and second steps so the surface can "cure" before it is sealed, Terry said.

The should be done by late August, weather permitting, he said.

## River Road gets asphalt

Dave Flemming, Cheyenne County road and bridge supervisor, said construction will begin soon on extending the asphalt for another 1.25 miles on the River Road southwest of St. Francis.

Crews also will be repairing the existing asphalt from U.S. 36 to County Road 11, a total of 3.2 miles, he said.

Extending the asphalt will alleviate some problems in that stretch, Mr. Fleming said. Before the contractor, Venture Corp., begins work, the county crew will be doing dirt work on two bridges to meet federal guidelines and any subgrade repairs as required.

After the road is paved, the crew will grade the shoulders and side slopes work and seed them with grass.

"We realize this may be inconvenient with everyone's busy schedules, but we must accommodate the contractor so he can do a good job," Mr. Flemming said.

The road will be closed on this stretch, with detours as marked.

Dustrol Inc., Towanda, bid \$1.3 million to win the job.

Brands encouraged drivers to watch for highway workers and be careful when traveling through work zones.

For information, call Terry at (785) 626-3258 or mterry@ksdot.org or Brands, northwest Kansas public affairs manager, at (785) 877-3315 or kristenb@ksdot.org in Norton.

Mauricia J. Pascual, \$126 for speeding.

Chang M. Seo, \$132 for speeding.

Ross A. Springer, \$192 for speeding.

Douglas S. Threewitt, \$120 for improper parking.

Richard A. Winter, \$96 for speeding and \$10 for no seat belts.

**June 3** — David K. Davis, \$126 for speeding and \$60 for unlawful acts with vehicle.

Jess H. Jewett, \$126 for speeding.

Anne L. Mastrodonato, \$156 for speeding.

Miranda A. Paley, \$144 for speeding.

**June 4** — Nicholas W. Job, \$276 for speeding.

## Finishing touches



Workers put finishing touches on concrete for the Sherman County Community Services carnival building Friday morning. The concrete is done and everything is complete inside the building, said Brad Schields, president of the group's board. It includes a new carnival prize booth and handicap-accessible restrooms for people to use during the fair. Inside the 9,000-square-foot

building has storage for rides on the south end as well as an insulated area where volunteers can work on rides throughout the year. If you want to see the building, Schields said, come out and help the crew on Wednesday evenings or during the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair, July 28 to Aug. 4.

Photo by Brad Schields

# McDonald man injured in Iraq

By Karen Krien  
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A McDonald man, Kelly Ray Simmonds, serving as part of a convoy escort team in Iraq, was injured on a recent mission.

"I can't tell much about it now," he said by e-mail from Iraq, adding that he will be out of commission for about four months from an injured shoulder.

Simmonds said he joined the Kansas National Guard in Goodland while still in high school. Following graduation from Cheylin High School in 2004, he went to basic training in Fort Jackson, N.C. He said he was one of three out of his class of five boys who went into the service.

In basic training, he said, he found he really enjoyed being in the Army. He had joined for the benefits and to become a cook, he said, but he found he wanted to go to Iraq. There were no jobs open for cooks, so he settled on being a gunner. He rides on top of a Humvee guarding the convoy.

On convoy duty, Simmonds said, he spends a lot of time "on the road," being back at his base maybe two days a week. The convoy security team makes sure that supplies get from one point to another, then the

trucks get back to safety. "The time on missions depends on what happens on the road," he added.

With his .50 caliber machine gun, he said, he has engaged in fire several times. During July, the company exchanged small-arms fire where the enemy fired on his convoy with AK-47 rifles and rocket-propelled grenades.

"I enjoy what I am doing over here," he said. "Not the fact that our incentive is kill or be killed, but that we are attempting to help out a nation that cannot defend or protect themselves."

"I volunteered for this deployment for two reasons. The first was to honor all my friends who have been killed in action while serving their country, and second, I swore that if I were deployed, I would do anything and everything within my power to make sure everyone I came over here with goes home safely, even if it means giving up my life so they could go back to their families."

A few missions ago, Simmonds said, he had the opportunity to help out the explosive ordinance divi-

sion by blowing up a booby trap, known in Army lingo as an IED.

"I was given the chance to take control of the EOP robot which is used to place the C-4 on an improvised explosive device and, I got to blow it up!" he said.

He said he has some video of the explosion.

Simmonds said his group has just been named the "senior convoy team" in the whole country of Iraq.

He will be coming home for his brother John's wedding on Aug. 25, adding that he is not sure whether he will stay in Iraq for another year.

He is the son of Kelly and Diane Simmonds of McDonald. Mr.

Simmonds said that the 170th Maintenance Unit in Goodland is supposed to be deployed to Iraq as a unit within the next year and Kelly Ray is considering going with them.

Mr. Simmonds also said that while growing up, Kelly Ray didn't like to shoot a shotgun because it kicked too much. He has come a long way, his father said, as today he now carries three guns, and one of them is a grenade launcher.

The Simmonds said they are proud of their son and what he is doing, but they will be glad to see him in August.



Simmonds

## matters of record

### District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:

**May 31** — Thomas R. Green, \$144 for speeding.

Leantron D. Harris, \$138 for speeding and \$60 for no child seat belts.

Hui He, \$165 for improper parking.

Gregory S. Kennedy, \$126 for speeding.

Lindsey R. Lissolo, \$126 for speeding.

Bruce J. Schulte, \$102 for speeding.

Joseph S. Taimanglo, \$138.05 for speeding.

**June 1** — Michelle A. Debacker, \$120 for speeding.

Jacqueline L. Gibbs, \$150 for speeding.

Robert W. Maerz Jr., \$144 for speeding.

Cynthia L. Morris, \$261 for speeding and dismissed for no liability insurance.

Raquel N. Parker, \$96 for speeding.

Brian D. Stoops, \$138 for speeding.

**June 2** — Israel Aguilar-Perez, \$126 for no driver's license and \$90 for speeding.

Stephen D. Allen, \$120 for speeding and dismissed for unlawful acts with vehicle.

Barbara Belcher, \$138 for speeding.

John E. Burns, \$156 for speeding.

Timothy R. Dobbs, \$144 for speeding.

Sara S. Gaum, \$165 for speeding and dismissed for no liability insurance.

Trae A. Jelinek, \$237 for speeding.

## corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

**Classifieds work! 899-2338**

# Hey Kids!



**Come & Be a Part of the Wal-Mart Float for the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair!!**

Enter your bike into our Bicycle Dress Up Contest

Kids ages 6 to 12 must wear a bike helmet and have permission from your parents to participate.

Registration forms available at Wal-Mart  
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## "One of Norb's Girls"

If only I had a dollar for every time I heard that phrase, or knew that's what was said.

As I drove down main street in Wallace, in an old beat up Ford on the way to or from the field, I could just hear the locals in Uncle Pete's store or the post office say, "That must be one of Norb's girls." Or as we drove the tractor, combine or trucks for dad because the three boys that he did have were working for someone who could pay more, the other farmers in the area would drive past and wave. Their thoughts could be read by their smiles, "There's one of Norb's girls."

All through the years, it didn't matter if we were going to church, school, sitting in the bus shop, or dilly-dallying around town. We had names, but no one could ever seem to remember them or, "I just can't keep you girls straight," they would say. "I just know you're one of Norb's girls."

What does it mean to be "one of Norb's girls"? It means that you know right from wrong, but you're not perfect. It means that you are loved more than life itself, even though he seldom said it. It means that you know "The Angel of God" prayer along with all the other important ones because you knelt down by the couch every night before bed and prayed with Dad. It means that you have a sense of humor and can take a lot of teasing.

You learned to drive any vehicle at any age if you were one of Norb's girls. If someone got into trouble in town that night, you had better have been home. You were expected to get up early on a Saturday morning to hunt whatever was in season, sort cattle or hogs, go on overnight fishing trips and touch gross bait, and be home at midnight no matter what.

These days I just can't help but smile when I visit with Dad's friends from years ago. As I walk away, I can hear the wife tell her husband, "You know who that is; that's one of Norb's girls."

We've all grown up to be many different types of women. We won't get bent out of shape if you don't know what we do for a living, or the marks we've made on the world. We won't expect you to "keep us straight" or even remember our names, because it will be just fine with us to always be, "one of Norb's girls."

Christina (Bussen) Hoyt

## Card Shower

Norb's wife, Joanne, along with their children: Mike Bussen (1948-1973), Pat Haremza, Teri Dickerson, Dan Bussen (1953-1977), Ed Bussen, Virgie Popp, Barbara Butz, Kathy Bussen, Christina Hoyt, Angie Goudy and Loretta Bussen would like to request a card shower for his 84th Birthday, July 25.

His address is: Norb Bussen, Logan County Manor, 615 Price, Oakley, KS 67748. Please feel free to include your favorite Norb story.

